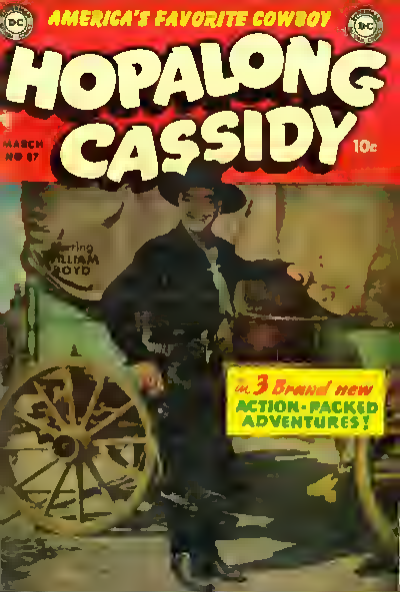
AMERICA'S FAVORITE COWBOY

HOPALONG CASSIDY

10¢

MARCH
NO 87



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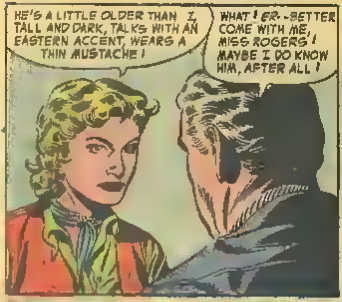


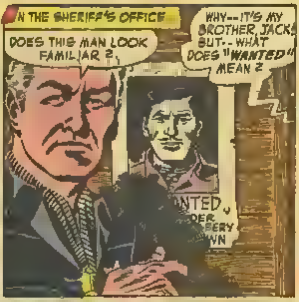
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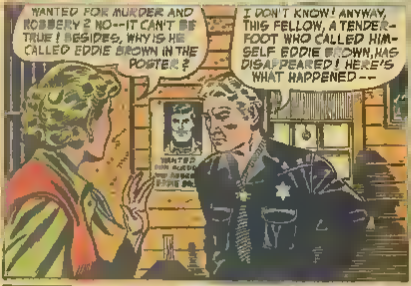
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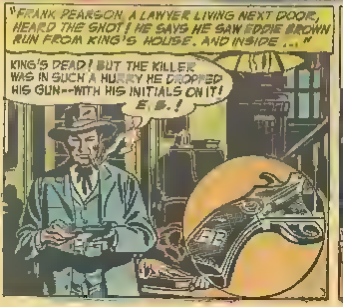
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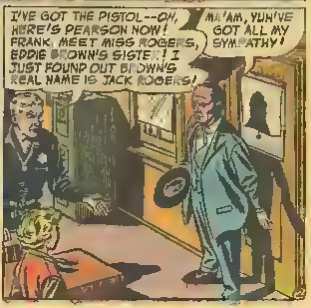

HE'S A LITTLE OLDER THAN I, TALL AND DARK, TALKS WITH AN EASTERN ACCENT, WEARS A THIN MUSTACHE!
WHAT! ER--BETTER COME WITH ME, MISS ROGERS! MAYBE I DO KNOW HIM, AFTER ALL!


IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DOES THIS MAN LOOK FAMILIAR?
WHY--IT'S MY BROTHER, JACK! BUT--WHAT DOES "WANTED" MEAN?

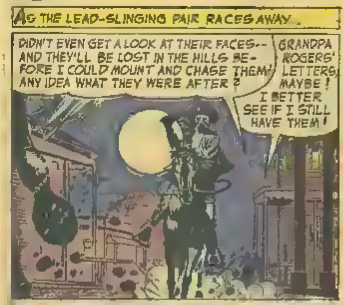

WANTED FOR MURDER AND ROBBERY? NO--IT CAN'T BE TRUE! BESIDES, WHY IS HE CALLED EDDIE BROWN IN THE POSTER?
I DON'T KNOW! ANYWAY, THIS FELLOW, A TENDERFOOT WHO CALLED HIMSELF EDDIE BROWN, HAS DISAPPEARED! HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED--

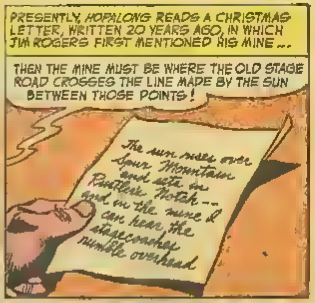

"THE SAME NIGHT THAT TELEGRAM WAS SENT TO YOU, GEORGE KING, OUR RICHEST CITIZEN, WAS SITTING AT HOME WITH $25,000 CASH--WHEN..."
NO! DON'T! AH-H-H-H...
POW!


"FRANK PEARSON, A LAWYER LIVING NEXT DOOR, HEARD THE SHOT! HE SAYS HE SAW EDDIE BROWN RUN FROM KING'S HOUSE. AND INSIDE..."
KING'S DEAD! BUT THE KILLER WAS IN SUCH A HURRY HE DROPPED HIS GUN--WITH HIS INITIALS ON IT! E. B.!

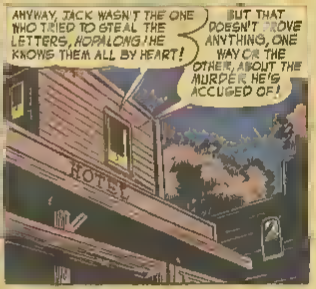

I'VE GOT THE PISTOL--OH, HERE'S PEARSON NOW! FRANK, MEET MISS ROGERS, EDDIE BROWN'S SISTER! I JUST FOUND OUT BROWN'S REAL NAME IS JACK ROGERS!
MA'AM, YOU'VE GOT ALL MY SYMPATHY!

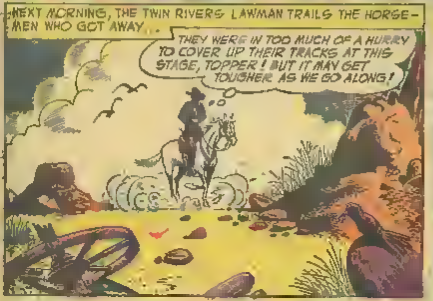

JACK'S NO CRIMINAL! HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE LOST SILVER MINE GRANDPA JIM ROGERS DISCOVERED YEARS AGO!
AND LIVING IN THAT OLD SHACK OUTSIDE TOWN, WHERE JIM ROGERS DIED WITHOUT REVEALING WHERE THE MINE WAS! NOBODY COULD EVER FIND IT!
JACK WIRED ME HE FOUND IT! WE FOUND CLUES IN GRANDPA ROGERS' LETTERS! SO WHY SHOULD HE WANT TO ROB ANYBODY?
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ALL I KNOW IS WHAT I'VE ALREADY TOLD CASSIDY! YOUR BROTHER USED A FALSE NAME AND RAN AWAY--WHICH LOOKS MIGHTY BAD!
YES, IT LOOKS BAD FOR JACK ROGERS, ALIAS EDDIE BROWN! BUT AS HOPALONG STROLLS NEAR THE CATTLEMEN'S HOTEL THAT EVENING...
HUH--? MISS ROGERS! IS SOMETHING WRONG?
SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO MY ROOM, SHERIFF CASSIDY!
SEE--THERE AGAINST THE WINDOW SHADE--
THAT MUST BE HIS HORSE WAITING BELOW! I'LL SCRAMBLE UP AND SURPRISE HIM!
HOTEL
THEN, ABRUPTLY...
GET BACK! THE HOMBRE'S GOT A LOOKOUT POSTED!
PING!
ZIP!
NOW THE INSIDE MAN'S TRYING FOR A GETAWAY!
IT'S CASSIDY! HURRY! HE'S SHOOTIN' TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!
POW!

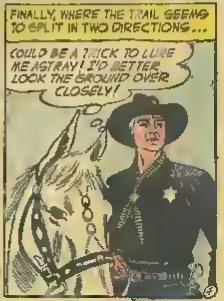

AS THE LEAD-SLINGING PAIR RACES AWAY...
DIDN'T EVEN GET A LOOK AT THEIR FACES--AND THEY'LL BE LOST IN THE HILLS BEFORE I COULD MOUNT AND CHASE THEM! ANY IDEA WHAT THEY WERE AFTER?
GRANDPA ROGERS' LETTERS, MAYBE! I BETTER SEE IF I STILL HAVE THEM!


PRESENTLY, HOPALONG READS A CHRISTMAS LETTER, WRITTEN 20 YEARS AGO, IN WHICH JIM ROGERS FIRST MENTIONED HIS MINE...
THEN THE MINE MUST BE WHERE THE OLD STAGE ROAD CROSSES THE LINE MADE BY THE SUN BETWEEN THOSE POINTS!
The sun rises over Lone Mountain and sets on Pinetree Notch--and in the mine I can hear the stagecoaches rumble overhead


ONLY THERE'S NO SUCH PLACE! JACK WROTE ME THAT THE SUN RISES AND SETS FAR NORTH OF THOSE LANDMARKS!
AND JACK SAID HE FOUND THE MINE IN SPITE OF THAT! HMM--

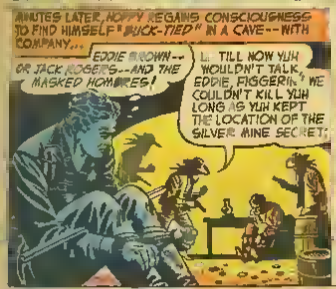

ANYWAY, JACK WASN'T THE ONE WHO TRIED TO STEAL THE LETTERS, HOPALONG! HE KNOWS THEM ALL BY HEART!
BUT THAT DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, ABOUT THE MURDER HE'S ACCUSED OF!
HOTEL

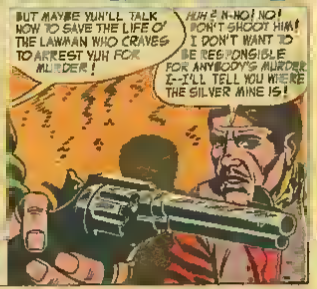

NEXT MORNING, THE TWIN RIVERS LAWMAN TRAILS THE HORSEMEN WHO GOT AWAY...
THEY WERE IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY TO COVER UP THEIR TRACKS AT THIS STAGE, TOPPER! BUT IT MAY GET TOUGHER AS WE GO ALONG!

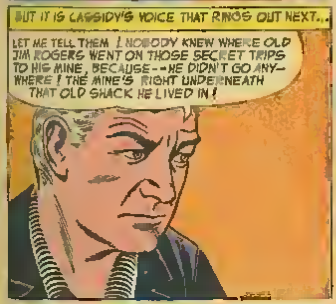

FINALLY, WHERE THE TRAIL SEEMS TO SPLIT IN TWO DIRECTIONS...
COULD BE A TRICK TO LURE ME ASTRAY! I'D BETTER LOOK THE GROUND OVER CLOSELY!


NEXT MOMENT.
MIGHTY FUNNY--NEITHER TRACK LOOKS NATURAL! WHAT'S WRONG, TOPPER?
WHEE-EE


A TRAP!
GOOD THING WE RIGGED UP THIS DOUBLE TRAIL FOR YOU, CASSIDY, IN CASE YOU MANAGED TO TAG US THIS FAR!
WAK!

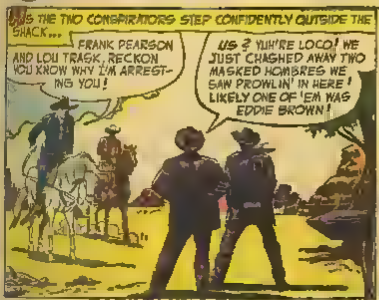

MINUTES LATER, HOPPY REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS TO FIND HIMSELF "BUCK-TIED" IN A CAVE--WITH COMPANY...
EDDIE BROWN--OR JACK ROGERS--AND THE MASKED HOMBRES!
I'LL TELL YUH WOULDN'T TALK, EDDIE, FIGGERIN' WE COULDN'T KILL YUH LONG AS YUH KEPT THE LOCATION OF THE SILVER MINE SECRET!

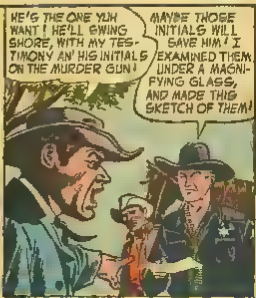

BUT MAYBE YUH'LL TALK NOW TO SAVE THE LIFE O' THE LAWMAN WHO CRAVES TO ARREST YUH FOR MURDER!
HUH? N-NO! NO! DON'T SHOOT HIM! I DON'T WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYBODY'S MURDER I--I'LL TELL YOU WHERE THE SILVER MINE IS!

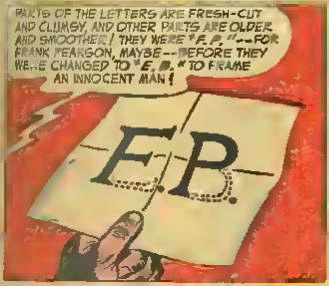

BUT IT IS CASSIDY'S VOICE THAT RINGS OUT NEXT...
LET ME TELL THEM! NOBODY KNEW WHERE OLD JIM ROGERS WENT ON THOSE SECRET TRIPS TO HIS MINE, BECAUSE--HE DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE! THE MINE'S RIGHT UNDERNEATH THAT OLD SHACK HE LIVED IN!

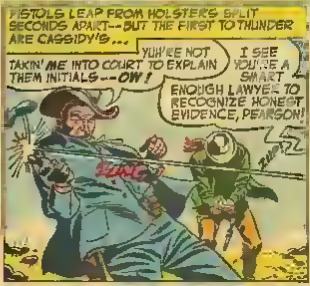

WHY--HOW'D YOU--? THAT IS--
THE WAY EDDIE'S GASPIN', CASSIDY MUST BE TELLIN' THE TRUTH! WE'LL LEAVE 'EM TIED HERE AN' GO MAKE SURE!

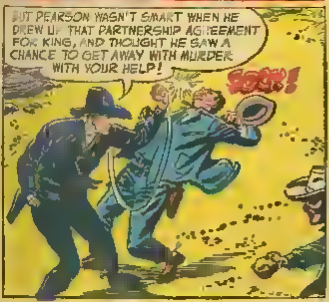

AS THE PRISONERS ARE LEFT ALONE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GUESSED, CASSIDY--BUT YOU'VE SURE FINISHED US! THEY'LL COME BACK AND KILL US, SOON AS THEY FIND THE MINE!
MAYBE NOT! START TELLING YOUR STORY WHILE I SEE ABOUT GETTING LOOSE FROM THIS BUCK-TIE RIGGING!
WHEN THE CLUES IN GRANDPA'S OLD LETTERS DIDN'T HELP, I LOOKED FOR OTHER CLUES IN HIS OLD SHANTY--AND ACCIDENTALLY FOUND THE MINE ITSELF!
MOVING'S NOT EASY--BUT I'VE GOT TO REACH THAT PILE OF EMPTY CANS!
I NEEDED MONEY TO DEVELOP IT, SO I WENT TO KING! HE AGREED TO PAY ME $25,000 FOR A PARTNERSHIP TO FINANCE THE WORK AND SPLIT THE PROFITS!
JUST ENOUGH PLAY IN MY FEET TO GET A GOOD GRIP ON THIS CAN, WITH THE JAGGED, STRAIGHT-UP LID!
THOSE CROOKS GRABBED ME BEFORE I COULD GET TO KING'S HOUSE TO CLOSE THE DEAL! LATER, THEY SAID THEY'D KILLED KING AND FIXED IT SO I'D HANG UNLESS I TOLD THEM WHERE THE MINE WAS!
CUTTING THE ROPES LOOSE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE LATE JIM ROGERS' SHACK...
IT'S THE MINE, ALL RIGHT--FULL OF TOP-GRADE ORE!
LISTEN! HOOFBEATS COMIN' THIS WAY!
IT'S CASSIDY! HE GOT LOOSE! I'LL BLAST--
HOLD IT, TRASK! WE'LL HANDLE THIS PEACEFUL! HOW CAN CASSIDY PIN ANYTHIN' ON US, WITH ALL THE EVIDENCE AGAINST EDDIE BROWN?

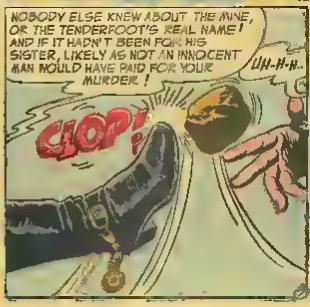

AS THE TWO CONSPIRATORS STEP CONFIDENTLY OUTSIDE THE SHACK...
FRANK PEARSON AND LOU TRASK, RECKON YOU KNOW WHY I'M ARRESTING YOU!
US? YUH'RE LOCO! WE JUST CHASHED AWAY TWO MASKED HOMBRES WE SAW PROWLIN' IN HERE! LIKELY ONE OF 'EM WAS EDDIE BROWN!


HE'S THE ONE YUH WANT! HE'LL SWING SHORE, WITH MY TESTIMONY AN' HIS INITIALS ON THE MURDER GUN!
MAYBE THOSE INITIALS WILL SAVE HIM! I EXAMINED THEM UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS, AND MADE THIS SKETCH OF THEM!


PARTS OF THE LETTERS ARE FRESH-CUT AND CLUMSY, AND OTHER PARTS ARE OLDER AND SMOOTHER! THEY WERE "F. P."--FOR FRANK PEARSON, MAYBE--BEFORE THEY WERE CHANGED TO "E. B." TO FRAME AN INNOCENT MAN!
F.P.


PISTOLS LEAP FROM HOLSTERS SPLIT SECONDS APART--BUT THE FIRST TO THUNDER ARE CASSIDY'S...
YUH'RE NOT TAKIN' ME INTO COURT TO EXPLAIN THEM INITIALS--OW!
I SEE YOU'RE A SMART ENOUGH LAWYER TO RECOGNIZE HONEST EVIDENCE, PEARSON!
BANG
BANG


BUT PEARSON WASN'T SMART WHEN HE DREW UP THAT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR KING, AND THOUGHT HE SAW A CHANCE TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER WITH YOUR HELP!
SOCK!


NOBODY ELSE KNEW ABOUT THE MINE, OR THE TENDERFOOT'S REAL NAME! AND IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HIS SISTER, LIKELY AS NOT AN INNOCENT MAN WOULD HAVE PAID FOR YOUR MURDER!
UH-H-H...
CHOP!

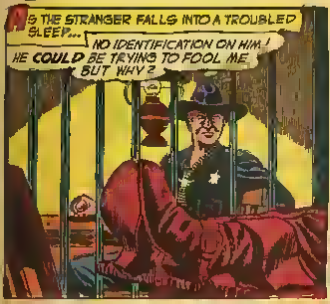


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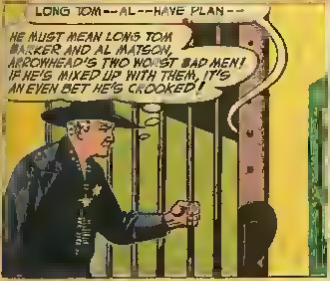
FEARLESS FOSNICK
by Al Capp
GEAD! I'VE MUST BE DETECTIVE FOSNICK, DO THE OTHERS MUST BE SUBBER. ANYFACE THE WORLD'S TAUGHEST CRIMINAL!!
I'M FOS-DICK
AHA!! I'VE GOT YOU THERE!! HOW CAN YOU BE FOSNICK WHEN I AM? AND ON THE SALARY THEY PAY ME HARSHLY GWB FOSNICK CAN LIVE!!
YOU ARE NOT FOSNICK FOSNICK! TURN IN YOUR BADGE!!
TURN N'YOUR HEAD ANYFACE!! I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT ME BECAUSE I USE WILDROOT CREAM OIL. TO KEEP MY HAIR NEAT- BUT YOURS IS A MESS!!
@!#& IF TO THOUGHT OF WILDROOT CREAM OIL, I'D HAVE AVOIDED ARREST!!
YOU COULD'VE AVOIDED LOOSE DANDRUFF, TOO! SAME GOES FOR YOU, CHIEF. GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL CHARLIE!
THAT WOULD BE ILLEGAL MY NAME IS IRVING!

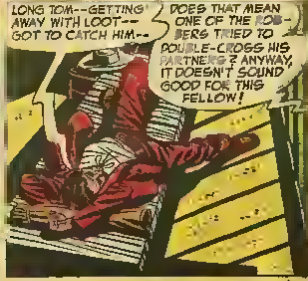

HOPALONG CASSIDY
STARRING WILLIAM BOYD
HAND OVER THE CASH, MISTER--QUICK!
TELLER
WAS THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER A LAW-MAN--OR AN OUTLAW? ALL HE KNEW WAS THAT HE'D BEEN MIXED UP SOMEHOW IN A BANK ROBBERY! SO, TO FIND OUT WHICH OF THESE TWO PICTURES WAS THE TRUE ONE, I HAD TO CRACK ONE OF THE TOUGHEST CASES EVER TO COME MY WAY, BY FINDING...
THE TRAIL TO YESTERDAY!
HALT, YUH OWL HOOTERS!
BANK
POW! POW!
PING! PING!
WESTERN TELEGRAPH
SHERIFF CASSIDY TWIN RIVERS ARROWHEAD BANK ROBBED OF $20,000 THIS AFTER-NOON BY THREE BANDITS. DEPUTY SHERIFF SMITH.
ANOTHER TOUGH MANHUNT COMING UP! WONDER WHAT THIS FELLOW WANTS?
EVENING, SHERIFF! ABOUT THAT--ER--ARROWHEAD BANK ROBBERY! MAYBE YOU BETTER LOCK ME UP FOR IT!

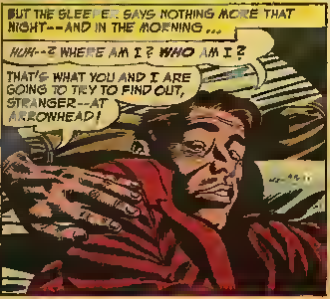

I BETTER EXPLAIN! ABOUT AN HOUR AGO, I WOKE UP BESIDE MY HORSE OUTSIDE TOWN, WITH A BUMP ON MY HEAD--AND THIS IN MY SADDLE-BAGS! IT PROVES I HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ROBBERY!
BANKNOTES--$20,000 WORTH--WITH THE ARROWHEAD BANK'S NAME ON THE WRAPPER! WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S JUST IT, SHERIFF--I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT MYSELF! I'M HOPING YOU'LL FIND OUT I'M ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW--BUT IF I STOLE THAT MONEY, I WANT TO PAY THE PENALTY!
YOU MEAN, YOU'VE LOST YOUR MEMORY COMPLETELY?
SUDDENLY,... GREAT SNAKES! THOSE SLUGS ARE MEANT FOR ME!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY REMEMBERS YOU! STAY HERE WHILE I LOOK 'EM OVER!
BANG!
CLINK
STAY HERE, NOTHING! IF SOMEBODY'S AIMING TO GUN ME DOWN, I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHY!
BUT AS THE WOULD-BE KILLERS RIDE FOR RUGGED COUNTRY...
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! WE CAN'T CATCH THEM IN THE DARK!
A TOUGH BREAK FOR ME! I BET THEY KNOW PLENTY MORE ABOUT ME THAN I DO!
PRESENTLY, BACK IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE...
I'M ALL IN! MIND LOCKING ME IN A CELL, SO I CAN GET SOME SLEEP?
THIS WAY, STRANGER! I'LL STICK AROUND IN CASE THOSE HOMBRES COME BACK!


AS THE STRANGER FALLS INTO A TROUBLED SLEEP...
NO IDENTIFICATION ON HIM! HE COULD BE TRYING TO FOOL ME... BUT WHY?

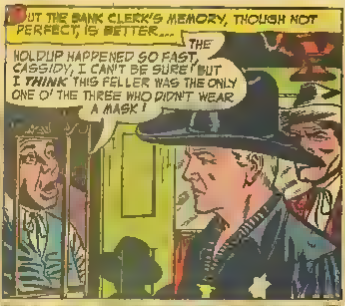

WANT ME--TO HELP--ROB BANK--
HE'S TALKING IN HIS SLEEP! I'VE HEARD FOLKS SOMETIMES REMEMBER IN DREAMS WHAT THEY CAN'T REMEMBER AWAKE!


LONG TOM--AL--HAVE PLAN--
HE MUST MEAN LONG TOM BARKER AND AL MATSON, ARROWHEAD'S TWO WORST BAD MEN! IF HE'S MIXED UP WITH THEM, IT'S AN EVEN BET HE'S CROOKED!

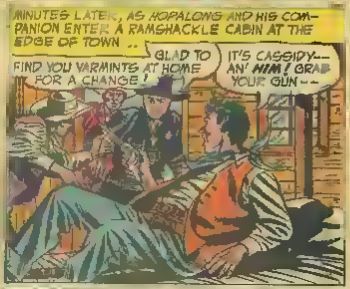

LONG TOM--GETTING AWAY WITH LOOT--GOT TO CATCH HIM--
DOES THAT MEAN ONE OF THE ROBBERS TRIED TO DOUBLE-CROSS HIS PARTNERS? ANYWAY, IT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD FOR THIS FELLOW!


BUT THE SLEEPER SAYS NOTHING MORE THAT NIGHT--AND IN THE MORNING...
HUH--? WHERE AM I? WHO AM I?
THAT'S WHAT YOU AND I ARE GOING TO TRY TO FIND OUT, STRANGER--AT ARROWHEAD!

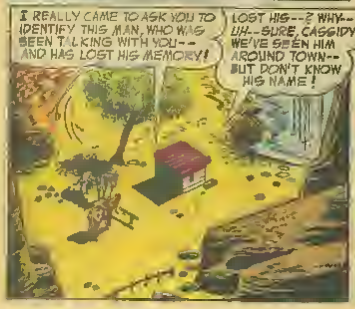

AN HOUR LATER, AT THE SCENE OF THE BANK ROBBERY...
HERE WE ARE--AND THERE'S THE BANK! REMEMBER IT?
NO--MY MIND'S STILL A BLANK!

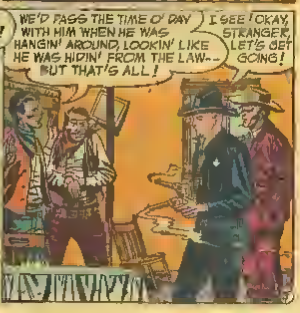

BUT THE BANK CLERK'S MEMORY, THOUGH NOT PERFECT, IS BETTER...
THE HOLDUP HAPPENED SO FAST, CASSIDY, I CAN'T BE SURE! BUT I THINK THIS FELLER WAS THE ONLY ONE O' THE THREE WHO DIDN'T WEAR A MASK!

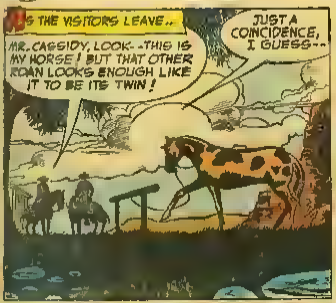

I'VE SEEN HIM HANGIN' AROUND TOWN FOR A COUPLE O' DAYS, TALKIN' MOSTLY WITH LONG TOM BARKER AND AL MATSON!
BAD COMPANY! COME ON--LET'S PAY AL AND LONG TOM A VISIT!

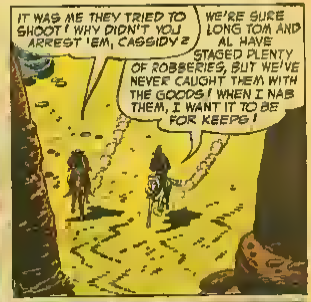

MINUTES LATER, AS HOPALONG AND HIS COMPANION ENTER A RAMSHACKLE CABIN AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...
FIND YOU VARMINTS AT HOME FOR A CHANGE!
GLAD TO
IT'S CASSIDY--AN' HIM! GRAB YOUR GUN--

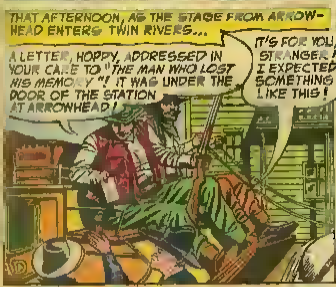

LONG TOM AND AL DRAW THEIR WEAPONS--BUT THE TWIN RIVERS LAWMAN IS FASTER.
ANY GUNNING NEEDS TO BE DONE, I'LL DO IT! YOU MUST HAVE GUILTY CONSCIENCES, THINKING I CAME HERE TO ARREST YOU!
BANG
BLAM
SMP

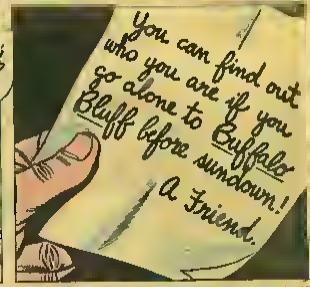

I REALLY CAME TO ASK YOU TO IDENTIFY THIS MAN, WHO WAS SEEN TALKING WITH YOU--AND HAS LOST HIS MEMORY!
LOST HIS--? WHY--UH--SURE, CASSIDY! WE'VE SEEN HIM AROUND TOWN--BUT DON'T KNOW HIS NAME!

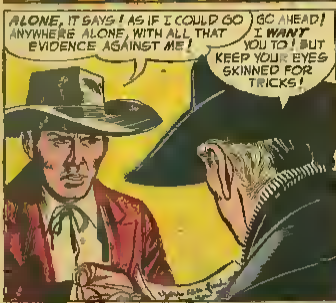

WE'D PASS THE TIME O' DAY WITH HIM WHEN HE WAS HANGIN' AROUND, LOOKIN' LIKE HE WAS HIDIN' FROM THE LAW--BUT THAT'S ALL!
I SEE! OKAY, STRANGER, LET'S GET GOING!

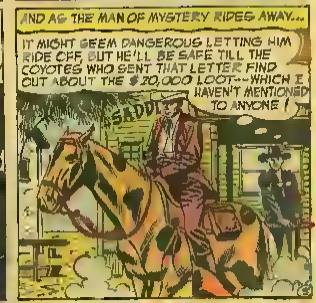

AS THE VISITORS LEAVE...
MR. CASSIDY, LOOK--THIS IS MY HORSE! BUT THAT OTHER ROAN LOOKS ENOUGH LIKE IT TO BE ITS TWIN!
JUST A COINCIDENCE, I GUESS--


IT WAS ME THEY TRIED TO SHOOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU ARREST 'EM, CASSIDY?
WE'RE SURE LONG TOM AND AL HAVE STAGED PLENTY OF ROBBERIES, BUT WE'VE NEVER CAUGHT THEM WITH THE GOODS! WHEN I NAB THEM, I WANT IT TO BE FOR KEEPS!

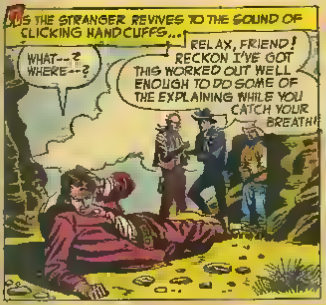

THAT AFTERNOON, AS THE STAGE FROM ARROWHEAD ENTERS TWIN RIVERS...
A LETTER, HOPPY, ADDRESSED IN YOUR CARE TO "THE MAN WHO LOST HIS MEMORY"! IT WAS UNDER THE DOOR OF THE STATION AT ARROWHEAD!
IT'S FOR YOU, STRANGER! I EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS!


You can find out who you are if you go alone to Buffalo Bluff before sundown!
A Friend.

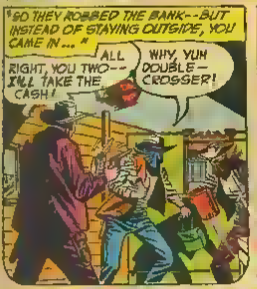

ALONE, IT SAYS! AS IF I COULD GO ANYWHERE ALONE, WITH ALL THAT EVIDENCE AGAINST ME!
GO AHEAD! I WANT YOU TO! BUT KEEP YOUR EYES SKINNED FOR TRICKS!


AND AS THE MAN OF MYSTERY RIDES AWAY...
IT MIGHT SEEM DANGEROUS LETTING HIM RIDE OFF, BUT HE'LL BE SAFE TILL THE COYOTES WHO SENT THAT LETTER FIND OUT ABOUT THE $20,000 LOOT--WHICH I HAVEN'T MENTIONED TO ANYONE!
SADDLE

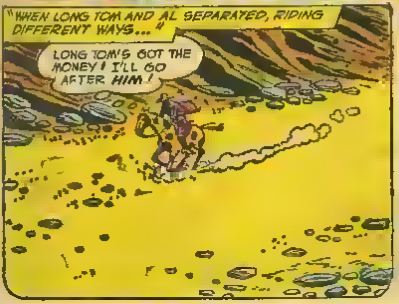

ALONG THE ROCKY ROAD TO BUFFALO BLUFF...
HERE HE COMES, AL--ALONE!
LOST MEMORY OR NOT, HE'S GONNA REMEMBER WHAT HE DONE WITH THE LOOT AFTER HE CAME TO!
NEXT MOMENT...
GIT OFF THAT HOSS, YUH DOUBLE-CROSSER! WE GOT UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH YUH!
ON A SHELF OF ROCK ABOVE THE TRIO, IS AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR...
REACHIN' FOR YOUR GUN, HUH? DON'T TRY THAT STUFF WITH US!
EASY, LONG TOM! WE WANT HIM ALIVE TILL HE TELLS US ABOUT THE SWAG!
KRAK!
ABRUPTLY...
JUMPIN' TOADFROGS--IT'S CASSIDY!
I FIGURED IF I HURRIED HERE THROUGH COYOTE CANYON, YOU WOULDN'T SPOT ME TILL IT WAS TOO LATE TO RUN!
I FIGURED YOU ROBBED THE BANK AND SENT THAT LETTER--AND I ALSO FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T DARE SHOW UP IF YOU SAW ME WITH OUR FORGETFUL FRIEND...
HERE'S ONE THING YOU DIDN'T FIGURE ON, CASSIDY--
THAT SNEAK GUNPLAY TRICK OF YOURS WAS THE EASIEST FIGURING OF ALL!
KOW!

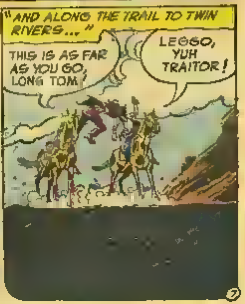

AS THE STRANGER REVIVES TO THE SOUND OF CLICKING HANDCUFFS...
WHAT--? WHERE--?
RELAX, FRIEND! RECKON I'VE GOT THIS WORKED OUT WELL ENOUGH TO DO SOME OF THE EXPLAINING WHILE YOU CATCH YOUR BREATH!


"IT STARTED WHEN THESE BUZZARDS DECIDED YOU MIGHT HELP THEM WITH A BANK ROBBERY..."
A SOFT TOUCH! THE BANK'S WE'LL CUT YUH IN IF YUH'LL BE OUR LOOKOUT!
WELL, A FELLA LIKE ME CAN ALWAYS USE SOME MONEY--

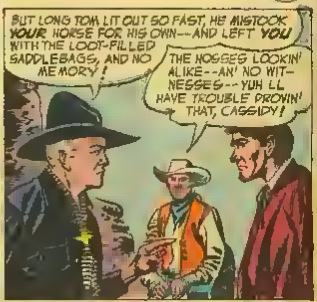

"SO THEY ROBBED THE BANK--BUT INSTEAD OF STAYING OUTSIDE, YOU CAME IN..."
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO-- I'LL TAKE THE CASH!
WHY, YUH DOUBLE-- CROSSER!

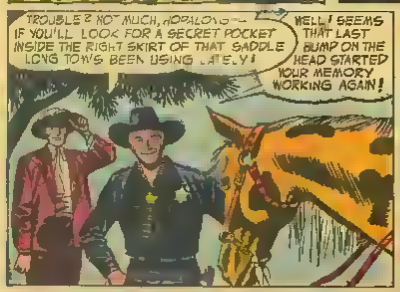

GIT GOIN' WITH THE SWAG! WE'LL TAKE CARE O' HIM LATER!
BAM!


"WHEN LONG TOM AND AL SEPARATED, RIDING DIFFERENT WAYS..."
LONG TOM'S GOT THE MONEY! I'LL GO AFTER HIM!

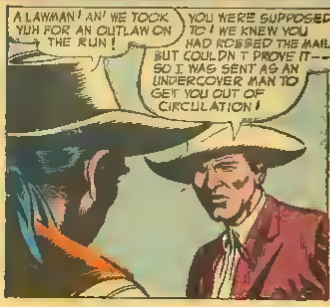

"AND ALONG THE TRAIL TO TWIN RIVERS..."
THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO, LONG TOM!
LEGGO, YUH TRAITOR!

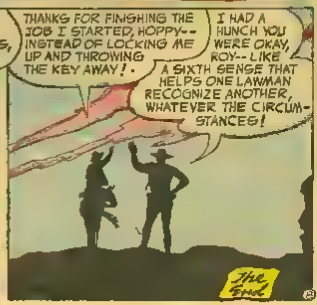

UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE STRUGGLE YOUR HEAD HIT A ROCK AND YOU PASSED OUT...!!
THAT TAKES CARE O' HIM! I'D BETTER LIGHT OUT O'HERE FAST, 'FORE A POSSE SHOWS UP!

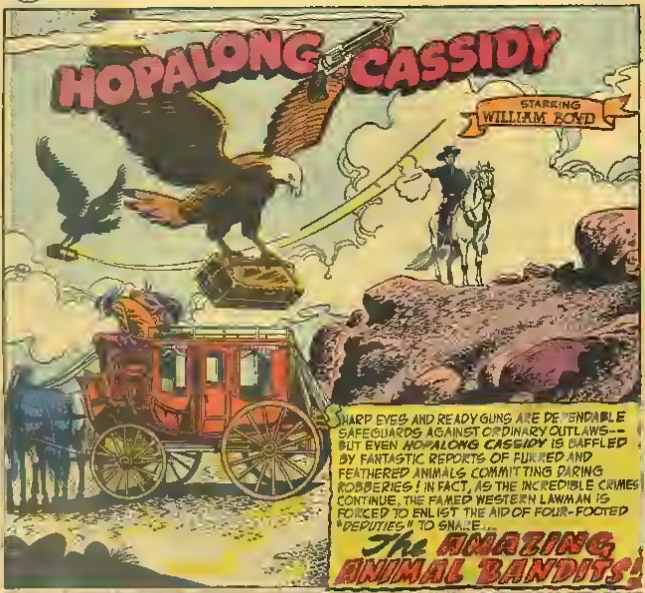

BUT LONG TOM LIT OUT SO FAST, HE MISTOOK YOUR HORSE FOR HIS OWN--AND LEFT YOU WITH THE LOOT-FILLED SADDLEBAGS, AND NO ME MORY!
THE NOSSES LOOKIN' ALIKE--AN' NO WITNESSES--YUH LL HAVE TROUBLE PROVIN' THAT, CASSIDY!

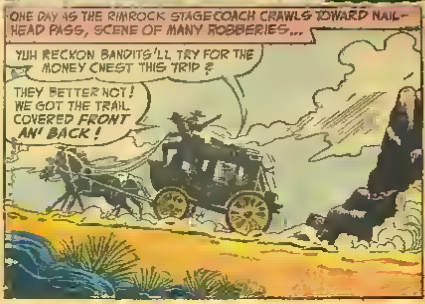

TROUBLE? NOT MUCH, HOPALONG--IF YOU'LL LOOK FOR A SECRET POCKET INSIDE THE RIGHT SKIRT OF THAT SADDLE LONG TOM'S BEEN USING LATELY!
WELL! SEEMS THAT LAST BUMP ON THE HEAD STARTED YOUR MEMORY WORKING AGAIN!


AND IN THE HIDDEN SADDLE POCKET...
A BADGE AND A CARD, IDENTIFYING YOU AS ROY NELSON, A DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL!
IDENTIFICATION ROY NELSON U.S. MARSHAL

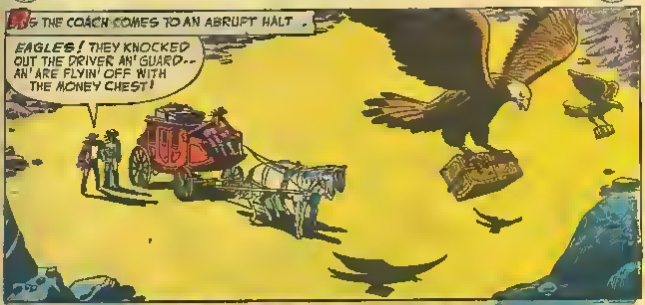

A LAWMAN! AN' WE TOOK YUH FOR AN OUTLAW ON THE RUN!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO! WE KNEW YOU HAD ROBBED THE MAILS, BUT COULDN'T PROVE IT--SO I WAS SENT AS AN UNDERCOVER MAN TO GET YOU OUT OF CIRCULATION!


THANKS FOR FINISHING THE JOB I STARTED, HOPPY--INSTEAD OF LOCKING ME UP AND THROWING THE KEY AWAY!
I HAD A HUNCH YOU WERE OKAY, ROY--LIKE A SIXTH SENSE THAT HELPS ONE LAWMAN RECOGNIZE ANOTHER, WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES!
THE END

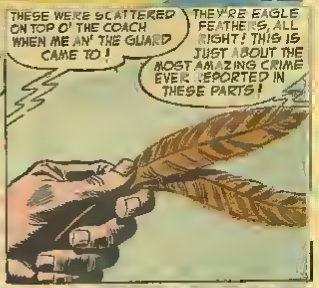

HOPALONG CASSIDY
STARRING WILLIAM BOND
SHARP EYES AND READY GUNS ARE DEPENDABLE SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ORDINARY OUTLAWS--BUT EVEN HOPALONG CASSIDY IS BAFFLED BY FANTASTIC REPORTS OF FURRED AND FEATHERED ANIMALS COMMITTING DARING ROBBERIES! IN FACT, AS THE INCREDIBLE CRIMES CONTINUE, THE FAMED WESTERN LAWMAN IS FORCED TO ENLIST THE AID OF FOUR-FOOTED "DEPUTIES," TO SNARE...
The AMAZING ANIMAL BANDITS!


ONE DAY AS THE RIMROCK STAGECOACH CRAWLS TOWARD NAIL-HEAD PASS, SCENE OF MANY ROBBERIES...
YUH RECKON BANDITS'LL TRY FOR THE MONEY CHEST THIS TRIP?
THEY BETTER NOT! WE GOT THE TRAIL COVERED FRONT AN' BACK!


BUT ONE DIRECTION HAS BEEN LEFT UNCOVERED--STRAIGHT UP! AND SUDDENLY...
THUD!
RIMROCK STAGE


SUDDENLY THE COACH COMES TO AN ABRUPT HALT .
EAGLES! THEY KNOCKED OUT THE DRIVER AN' GUARD-- AN' ARE FLYIN' OFF WITH THE MONEY CHEST!


THE FANTASTIC STORY IS TOLD TO HOPALONG CASSIDY, TWIN RIVERS' FAMOUS LAWMAN, BY BILL DRAKE AND MILO RIGGS, TRAVELING METAL WORKERS...
THEY FLEW! YUH COULD'VE KNOCKED ME AN' MILO OVER WITH A FEATHER!
AN' AWAY
AN' SPEAKIN' O' FEATHERS, HOPPY--

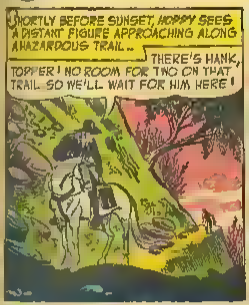

THESE WERE SCATTERED ON TOP O' THE COACH WHEN ME AN' THE GUARD CAME TO!
THEY'RE EAGLE FEATHERS, ALL RIGHT! THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE MOST AMAZING CRIME EVER REPORTED IN THESE PARTS!


THE NEXT DAY AS HOPALONG GUARDS THE NORTH STAR MINE'S PAYROLL MESSENGER...
IMAGINE AN EAGLE-- OR ANY OTHER DUMB CRITTER--PULLIN' A ROBBERY! PLAIN NONSENSE!
MAYBE! YET THE STAGE WAS ROBBED!

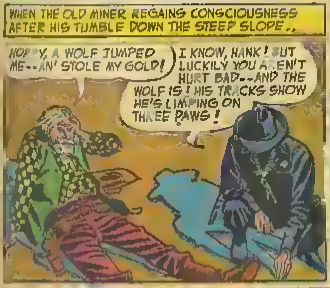

I'VE SEEN ANIMALS TRAINED TO DO SOME REMARKABLE THINGS!
WELL, THERE'S A ROOF ON THIS SHACK! NO BANDIT EAGLES ARE GONNA DROP IN ON ME WHILE I FILL THE PAY ENVELOPES!
STATE MINING OFFICE

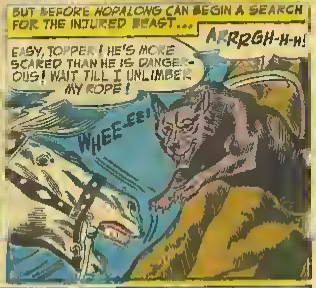

BUT AS THE PAYROLL MAN TOSSES THE CANVAS MONEY SACK ON HIS DESK
HUH--? LOOK OUT, CASSIDY!
A BOBCAT!

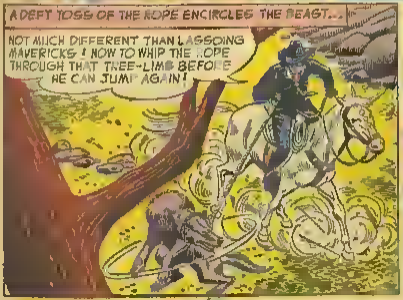

LIKE A STREAK OF TAWNY LIGHTNING, THE GREAT CAT LEAPS TO THE DESK, THEN TO THE OPPOSITE WINDOW... WITH THE PAYROLL CASH!
IT'S GETTIN' AWAY WITH THE MONEY! SHOOT IT!
JUST KNICKED IT! IT MOVED TOO FAST FOR CAREFUL SHOOTING! BUT MAYBE I'VE SLOWED IT DOWN ENOUGH SO I CAN CATCH IT!
POW!
SWISH
LATER, AS HAPPY TRAILS THE WOUNDED ANIMAL'S TRACKS MILE AFTER MILE THROUGH WILD HILL COUNTRY...
STILL GOING STRONG, TOPPER, JUDGING BY ITS TRACKS! WHAT--
A RIFLE SHOT AHEAD!
POW!
FINALLY, A SHORT DISTANCE AHEAD...
THE BOBCAT BANDIT I SHOT BY SOMEBODY WHO WAITED AT ITS LAIR! NO MONEY AROUND, EITHER! BUT THERE'S A WIRE AROUND ITS NECK, AND-- HMM--
THAT AFTERNOON, BACK IN TWIN RIVERS...
AT LEAST THE ROBBER EAGLES GOT ME AN' NILO A JOB, SHERIFF--PUTTIN' BARS ON ALL THE BANK WINDOWS!
BETTER MAKE THEM STRONG! I'M JUST BACK FROM TANGLING WITH ANOTHER ROBBER ANIMAL-- A BOBCAT!
AS HOPALONG ENTERS HIS OFFICE...
GOT TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING BEFORE WE HAVE A WHOLE RASH OF ANIMAL CRIMES! WHAT'S THIS? A NOTE!
SOMETHING TELLS ME WHOEVER WROTE THIS NOTE ISN'T JUST GUESSING!
SHERIFF CASSIDY-- BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HARDPAN HANK WHEN HE BRINGS IN GOLD DUST FROM HIS CLAIM TODAY. MIGHT BE SOME ANIMAL ROBBERS OUT HIS WAY!
A FRIEND!

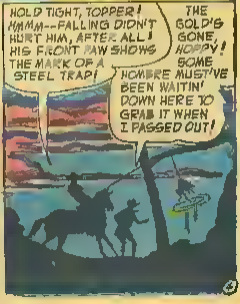

SHORTLY BEFORE SUNSET, HOPPY SEES A DISTANT FIGURE APPROACHING ALONG A HAZARDOUS TRAIL..
THERE'S HANK, TOPPER! NO ROOM FOR TWO ON THAT TRAIL. SO WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM HERE!

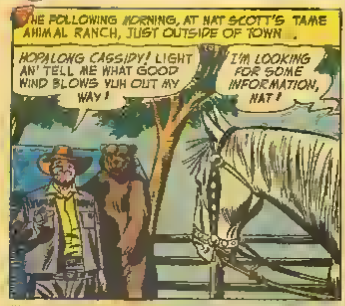

BUT THE NEXT INSTANT..
ARRGH-H-H-H!
YIIII! A TIMBER WOLF!

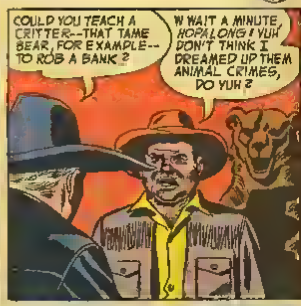

WHEN THE OLD MINER REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER HIS TUMBLE DOWN THE STEEP SLOPE..
HOPPY, A WOLF JUMPED ME--AN' STOLE MY GOLD!
I KNOW, HANK! BUT LUCKILY YOU AREN'T HURT BAD--AND THE WOLF IS! HIS TRACKS SHOW HE'S LIMPING ON THREE PAWS!

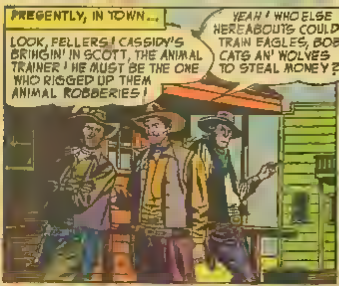

BUT BEFORE HOPALONG CAN BEGIN A SEARCH FOR THE INJURED BEAST...
ARRRGH-H-H!
EASY, TOPPER! HE'S MORE SCARED THAN HE IS DANGEROUS! WAIT TILL I UNLIMBER MY ROPE!
WHEE-EE!

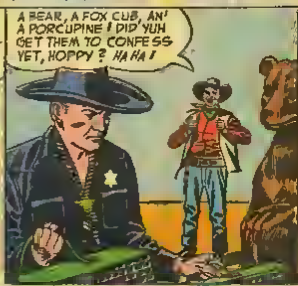

A DEFT TOSS OF THE ROPE ENCIRCLES THE BEAST...
NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN LASSOING MAVERICKS! NOW TO WHIP THE ROPE THROUGH THAT THREE-LIMB BEFORE HE CAN JUMP AGAIN!

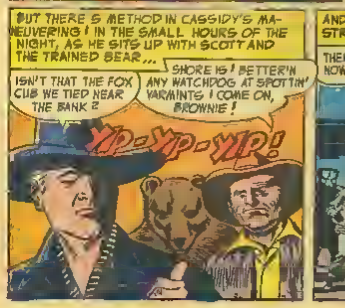

HOLD TIGHT, TOPPER! HMMM--FALLING DIDN'T HURT HIM, AFTER ALL! HIS FRONT PAW SHOWS THE MARK OF A STEEL TRAP!
THE GOLD'S GONE, HOPPY! SOME HOMBRE MUST'VE BEEN WAITIN' DOWN HERE TO GRAB IT WHEN I PASSED OUT!

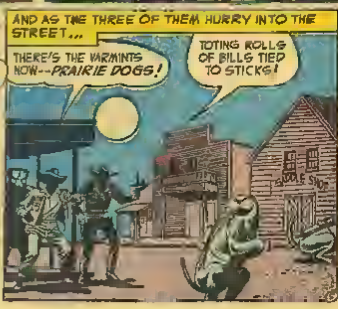

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT NAT SCOTT'S TAME ANIMAL RANCH, JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN...
HOPALONG CASSIDY! LIGHT AN' TELL ME WHAT GOOD WIND BLOWS YUH OUT MY WAY!
I'M LOOKING FOR SOME INFORMATION, NAT!

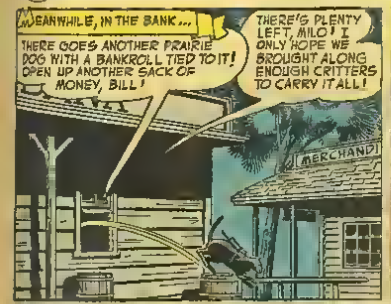

COULD YOU TEACH A CRITTER--THAT TAME BEAR, FOR EXAMPLE--TO ROB A BANK?
W WAIT A MINUTE, HOPALONG! YUH DON'T THINK I DREAMED UP THEM ANIMAL CRIMES, DO YUH?

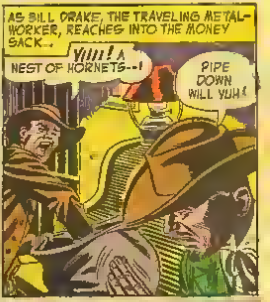

PRESENTLY, IN TOWN...
LOOK, FELLERS! CASSIDY'S BRINGIN' IN SCOTT, THE ANIMAL TRAINER! HE MUST BE THE ONE WHO RIGGED UP THEM ANIMAL ROBBERIES!
YEAH! WHO ELSE HEREABOUTS COULD TRAIN EAGLES, BOB-CATS AN' WOLVES TO STEAL MONEY?


A BEAR, A FOX CUB, AN' A PORCUPINE! DID YUH GET THEM TO CONFESS YET, HOPPY? HA HA!

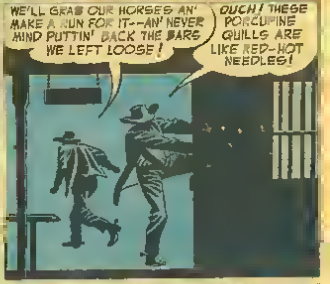

BUT THERE'S METHOD IN CASSIDY'S MA-NEUVERING! IN THE SMALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT, AS HE SITS UP WITH SCOTT AND THE TRAINED BEAR...
ISN'T THAT THE FOX CUB WE TIED NEAR THE BANK?
SHORE IS! BETTER'N ANY WATCHDOG AT SPOTTIN' VARMINTS! COME ON, BROWNIE!
YIP-YIP-YIP!

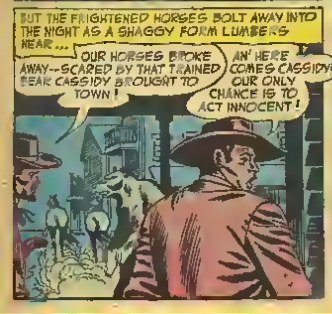

AND AS THE THREE OF THEM HURRY INTO THE STREET...
THERE'S THE VARMINTS NOW--PRAIRIE DOGS!
TOTING ROLLS OF BILLS TIED TO STICKS!
DOUBLE S SALOON

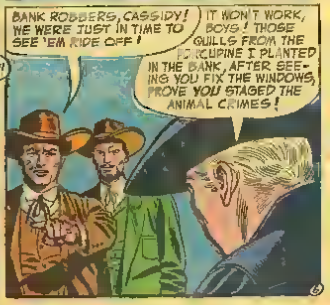

MEANWHILE, IN THE BANK...
THERE GOES ANOTHER PRAIRIE DOG WITH A BANKROLL TIED TO IT! OPEN UP ANOTHER SACK OF MONEY, BILL!
THERE'S PLENTY LEFT, MILO! I ONLY HOPE WE BROUGHT ALONG ENOUGH CRITTERS TO CARRY IT ALL!
MERCHAND


AS BILL DRAKE, THE TRAVELING METAL-WORKER, REACHES INTO THE MONEY SACK...
YIIII! A NEST OF HORNETS--!
PIPE DOWN WILL YUH!


GREAT GUNS--A PORCUPINE! EEEYOW!
WOW! I BET WE'VE WOKE UP THE WHOLE TOWN!


WE'LL GRAB OUR HORSES AN' MAKE A RUN FOR IT--AN' NEVER MIND PUTTIN' BACK THE BARS WE LEFT LOOSE!
OUCH! THESE PORCUPINE QUILLS ARE LIKE RED-HOT NEEDLES!

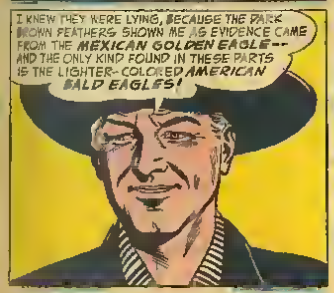

BUT THE FRIGHTENED HORSES BOLT AWAY INTO THE NIGHT AS A SHAGGY FORM LUMBERS NEAR...
OUR HORSES BROKE AWAY--SCARED BY THAT TRAINED BEAR CASSIDY BROUGHT TO TOWN!
AN' HERE COMES CASSIDY! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO ACT INNOCENT!

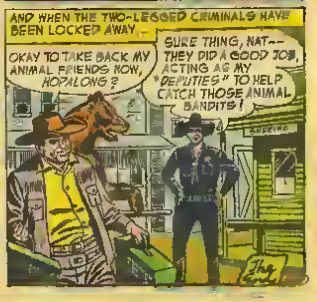

BANK ROBBERS, CASSIDY! WE WERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE 'EM RIDE OFF!
IT WON'T WORK, BOYS! THOSE QUILLS FROM THE PORCUPINE I PLANTED IN THE BANK, AFTER SEEING YOU FIX THE WINDOWS, PROVE YOU STAGED THE ANIMAL CRIMES!

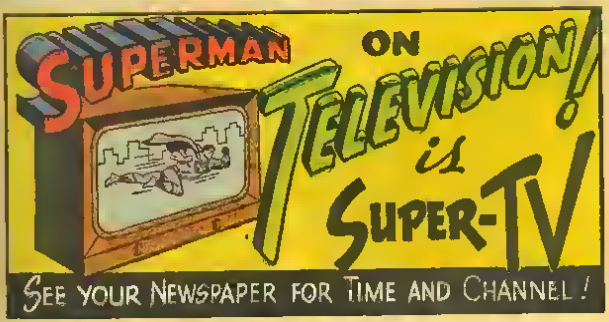

...S DESPERATE HANDS REACH FOR PISTOLS...
HUH!
STAGING THE CRIMES WAS CLEVER AND SIMPLE! YOU TRAPPED A WOLF AND TIED HIM! ONE OF YOU LET HIM LOOSE WHEN HARDPAN HANK REACHED A DANGEROUS PART OF THE TRAIL--AFTER MAKING SURE I'D BE ON HAND TO SEE IT!
THE OTHER WAS WAITING DOWN BELOW TO GRAB HANK'S GOLD AND RUN BEFORE HANK RECOVERED FROM HIS FALL!
H-MY GUN!
POW!
YOU SNARED THE BOBCAT, PUT IT IN A BAG ON THE TREE BY THE WINDOW OF THE MINE OFFICE, AND RELEASED IT AT THE PROPER MOMENT!
I'M GETTIN' OUT OF--OOOF!
THUD!
FISH HOOKS, ATTACHED TO A WIRE AROUND THE BOBCAT'S NECK, PICKED UP THE MONEY SACK--WHILE YOU WAITED AT THE CAT'S LAIR TO SHOOT IT AND GRAB THE LOOT!
SOK!
AN INTERESTING STORY, CASSIDY! BUT YUH CAN'T PROVE WE ROBBED THE BANK, UNLESS YUH CAN PRODUCE THE LOOT!
RECKON I CAN DO THAT, TOO, NOW THAT DAYLIGHT'S ALMOST HERE!
PRESENTLY, WHERE THE MOUNDS OF A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN DOT A NEARBY STRETCH OF GROUND...
I'LL SAY, CASSIDY! STICKS--LIKE THE ONES TIED TO THE YARMINTS WE SAW--ARE CAUGHT IN THE ENTRANCES TO THEIR DENS!
NOTICE ANYTHING PECULIAR, SCOTT?


THEY WERE TIED LOOSELY TO THE PRAIRIE DOGS, SO THEY'D PULL OFF WHEN THE CRITTERS GOT HOME! AND WIRED TO THE TICKS ARE--BANKNOTES!
IMAGINE! TRAPPIN' THE VARMINTS TO GALLY AN' HIDE THE LOOT, KNOWIN' THEY'D AIM STRAIGHT FOR HERE!


RECKON THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHIN' CASSIDY--'CEPT THEM ROBBER EAGLES!
THERE NEVER WERE ANY! THOSE HOMBRES SLUGGED THE STAGE DRIVER AND GUARD, STOLE THE MONEY CHEST, AND MADE UP THE WHOLE STORY!


I KNEW THEY WERE LYING, BECAUSE THE DARK BROWN FEATHERS SHOWN ME AS EVIDENCE CAME FROM THE MEXICAN GOLDEN EAGLE--AND THE ONLY KIND FOUND IN THESE PARTS IS THE LIGHTER-COLORED AMERICAN BALD EAGLES!


AND WHEN THE TWO-LEGGED CRIMINALS HAVE BEEN LOCKED AWAY--
OKAY TO TAKE BACK MY ANIMAL FRIENDS NOW, HOPALONG?
SURE THING, NAT--THEY DID A GOOD JOB, ACTING AS MY "DEPUTIES" TO HELP CATCH THOSE ANIMAL BANDITS!
SHERIFF


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